

Business Area #4: Central Square

Boundaries: the Conrail Railroad, Erie Street, Fairmont Street, River Street, Howard Street, Western Avenue, Pleasant Street, Green Street, Sellers Street, Bigelow Street, Doyle Way, Inman Street, and Broadway

Major areas of Business/Retail/Industrial Concentration include: shops, offices, restaurants between 200 and 830 Massachusetts Avenue, offices on Bishop Allen Drive, restaurants on Green Street, establishments between 770 and 910 Main Street, and City Hall



Central Square

Larcenies from buildings increased by 13% in the Central Square business district in 2003. The rate of these thefts slowed down considerably over the final two quarters of the year with 37 reported incidents between July and December. There were 61 reported thefts from buildings during the first two quarters. Theft from lockers in health clubs between 600 and 800 Mass Ave accounted for 25% of the larceny from buildings in this area in 2003. A high percentage of these thefts can be traced to crews of professional teams that target credit cards from wallets. In a number of these cases, high-ticket items are charged to the stolen cards before the victim realizes that they are missing. • The seven **commercial robberies** in Business District #4 in 2003 were an eclectic grouping that included: three banks; two restaurants; a shoe store and a beauty salon. All three of the bank robberies occurred in a two-week window at the end of January in the 600 block of Mass Ave. In each of the bank robberies, the suspect passed a note to the teller demanding money. One suspect was arrested when a dye pack exploded in the Central Square subway station. • There were 39 fewer **commercial burglaries** in this business district in 2003. The total of 18 commercial breaks in 2003 is the lowest for Central Square in over 40 years. Commercial breaks skyrocketed in Central Square in 2002 when a 139% increase was registered. The majority of that sharp incline was attributed to the activity of a career criminal who was involved in a series of breaks into area restaurants at the close of 2002. With that subject's incarceration, there were no discernible commercial burglary patterns identified in Central Square in all of 2003. • **Larceny from persons** rose by 22% in this business district with the majority of the incidents being the theft of wallets and purses of patrons at local restaurants and cafes.

CRIME	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Larceny from Building	113	73	95	87	98
Larceny from Person	63	67	77	81	99
Commercial Burglary	42	25	23	57	18
Commercial Robbery	5	4	2	7	7
Shoplifting	58	45	63	104	75
Fraud/Flim	52	59	75	95	83
Flam/Counterfeiting					